



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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12 NOVEMBER 1965

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1. Indonesia

Indonesians committed to the drive against the Communist Party are expressing concern and showing some confusion in the wake of Sukarno's strong public assertion of authority on Wednesday.

A number of those who had previously expressed optimism over the course of events, now seem discouraged. Since Wednesday, Sukarno has moved to regain full control over the country's information media. The army relinquished control of the radio yesterday, and the press, in conformity with new regulations, has toned down its attacks on the Communists and on Subandrio. Subandrio himself seems to be displaying new confidence.

Army leaders, most of whom had evidently hoped they could somehow get Sukarno to support their objectives, may now be obliged to weigh the risks of removing Sukarno if their aims are to be realized.

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Meantime, however, the army's roundup of Communist party adherents has continued in various parts of the country.

2. Southeast Asia

The French may be preparing to take new soundings on convening an international conference on Indochina.

The French chargé in Laos has confided to the US ambassador that De Gaulle is about to send one of his diplomats on an official visit to the capitals of Communist China, North Vietnam, Laos, and Cambodia. The diplomat, Jean Chauvel, is said to have had a prominent role in both the 1954 and 1962 Geneva conferences.

The chargé added that he was under instructions to inform the Soviet ambassador in Laos before the trip is made public. This raises the possibility that some new initiative on Southeast Asia was discussed during Couve de Murville's recent trip to Moscow.

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3. Philippines

President Macapagal has yet to concede his defeat in Tuesday's presidential election, but with some 80 percent of the votes counted there can be little doubt.

Some violence has occurred, as usual during Philippine elections, and the threat of more serious disturbances will remain until the dust settles. There was considerable election cheating on both sides.

Senator Ferdinand Marcos, the apparent winner, offered his assurances of continued friendly relations with the US during his "victory" news conference last night. He asserted he would send Philippine troops to Vietnam if necessary. On the domestic scene, Marcos will be hampered--as Macapagal has been--by a close party balance in Congress.

4. North Vietnam

The number of operational surface-to-air missile units in North Vietnam may have been reduced [redacted] as a result of recent air strikes.

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5. Soviet Union

The Venus probe launched last night

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This is the eighth Soviet try to reach Venus.

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The probe will require about three and a half months to complete its journey. The Soviet news agency reports that it is equipped to perform various scientific measurements during its flight as well as to attempt to observe Venus at the end of its journey.

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6. Rhodesia

The situation in Rhodesia is calm, and little violence or open opposition to the Smith regime has been reported. The departing US consul in Salisbury feels most of the white Rhodesians are relieved that a clear-cut decision, even if hazardous, has finally been taken. Nonwhites inside Rhodesia have yet to manifest their reaction. Censorship of the press and radio is being strictly enforced.

African reaction to the Rhodesian move is predictably hostile, though there is no unanimity as to what to do. President Kenyatta, who does not favor the use of force, has called for a meeting of East African leaders on Monday. President Nyerere in Tanzania reacted initially with a statement calling for United Nations intervention "in force." On the other side of the continent, Ghanaian President Nkrumah has called for joint African military action.

Zambia, which is vulnerable to economic retaliation from Rhodesia, is weighing the risks of joining in the trade embargo of Rhodesia. President Kaunda, pointing out that Zambian participation is essential if the economic sanctions are to succeed, indicated to the US Embassy that he will ask for US and British help in obtaining the items, including coal, which Zambia normally imports from Rhodesia.

7. Cyprus

Rejection by the Turkish Cypriots of a United Nations proposal to ease the explosive situation in Famagusta has angered Greek Cypriot leaders. They seem disposed toward new action against the Turks, which, in turn, might prompt Ankara to military intervention.

8. Brazil

The ferment among military officers that culminated on 27 October in Castello Branco's assumption of wide new powers seems to be settling down, at least for a time.

The US defense attaché, after talking with dozens of Brazilian officers over the past two weeks, concludes that the president's strength among the military is still great. Latent discontent continues, however, and there are signs that some of the younger hard-line officers, concerned over the president's reluctance to take even stronger action against subversion and corrupt politicians, are forming a nationalistic political group for the long haul.

Problems could boil up again over the scheduled inauguration on 5 December of the Guanabara state governor, who won the 3 October election with Communist backing and is anathema to many officers. Castello Branco has vowed to permit all those elected to take office, but will be under pressure to reverse himself in this and perhaps one other case.

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